

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are cancelled; and new claims 43-52 are added without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. Support for the new claims appears, for example, on pages 3 and 7-8 of the specification and in the originally filed claims.

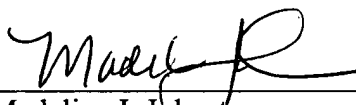
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

Entry of the forgoing amendments prior to examination is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 263742000201. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

Claims 1-42 have been cancelled.

New claims 43-52 have been added.

43. (New) A composition comprising substantially non-aggregated particulates in suspension and an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation of the particulates upon freezing and thawing.

44. (New) The composition according to claim 43, wherein the composition is frozen.

45. (New) The composition according to claim 43, wherein the particulates are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gold, polystyrene latex and aluminum hydroxide.

46. (New) The composition according to claim 43, comprising at least 10% (w/v) trehalose.

47. (New) The composition according to claim 43, comprising at least 30% (w/v) trehalose.

48. (New) A method of reducing aggregation during dehydration and rehydration of particulates in suspension comprising the steps of:

adding to a particulate suspension an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation upon rehydration; and
dehydrating the suspension.

49. (New) A method of reducing aggregation of particulates in suspension during freezing, comprising the steps of:

adding to the suspension an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation during freezing; and
freezing the suspension.

50. (New) The method according to claim 48 or claim 49, wherein the particulates are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gold, polystyrene latex and aluminum hydroxide.

51. (New) The method according to claim 48 or claim 49, wherein the amount of trehalose is at least 10% (w/v).

52. (New) The method according to claim 48 or claim 49, wherein the amount of trehalose is at least 30% (w/v).